

November 3 Special Election Information

Town Hall Meeting:

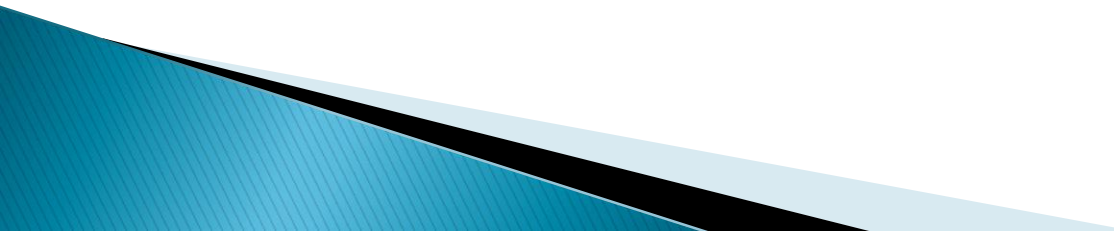
City Council Member Mac Woodward
Mayor Pro Tem Lanny D. Ray

and

Huntsville Public Library Feasibility Committee Chairman **Ann Holder**

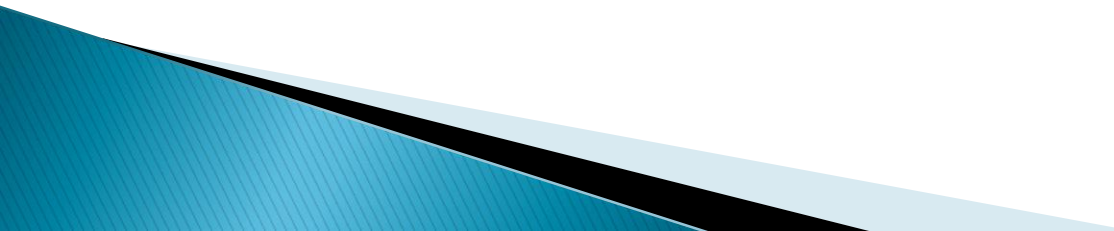
November 3 Special Election items

The November 3 ballot will include three separate issues for voters to consider:

- ▶ 1. A proposition on a debt issuance for the Huntsville Public Library Renovation and Expansion Project;
 - ▶ 2. A proposition for the exchange of City parkland for property owned by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
 - ▶ 3. The adoption or rejection of ten (10) amendments to the existing Charter of the City of Huntsville
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1. A proposition on a debt issuance for the Huntsville Public Library Renovation and Expansion Project

Shall the City Council of the City of Huntsville, Texas, be authorized to issue the bonds of the City, in one or more series or issues, in the aggregate principal amount of \$3,500,000 with the bonds of each such series or issues, respectively, to mature serially within not to exceed thirty years from their date, and to be sold at such prices and bear interest at such rates, as shall be determined within the discretion of the City Council, in accordance with law at the time of issuance, for the purpose of constructing, acquiring, renovating, expanding, improving and equipping existing Huntsville Public Library including any necessary demolition, constructing necessary infrastructure and parking facilities and other related costs; and shall said City Council be authorized to levy and cause to be assessed and collected annual ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the City in an amount sufficient to pay the annual interest on said bonds and provide a sinking fund to pay the bonds at maturity?



Ballot Language for Proposition 1

(How the item will appear on the November 3 ballot)

The issuance of \$3,500,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds for the Huntsville Public Library renovation and expansion project

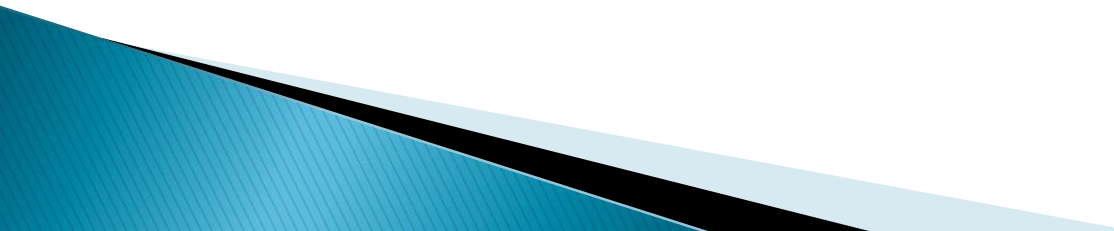
☐ **FOR**

☐ **AGAINST**

OUR LIBRARY



Our Library Today

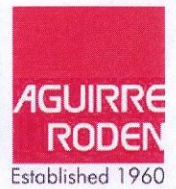
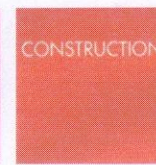
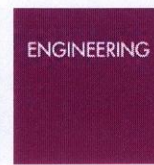
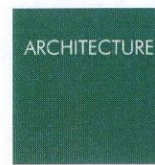
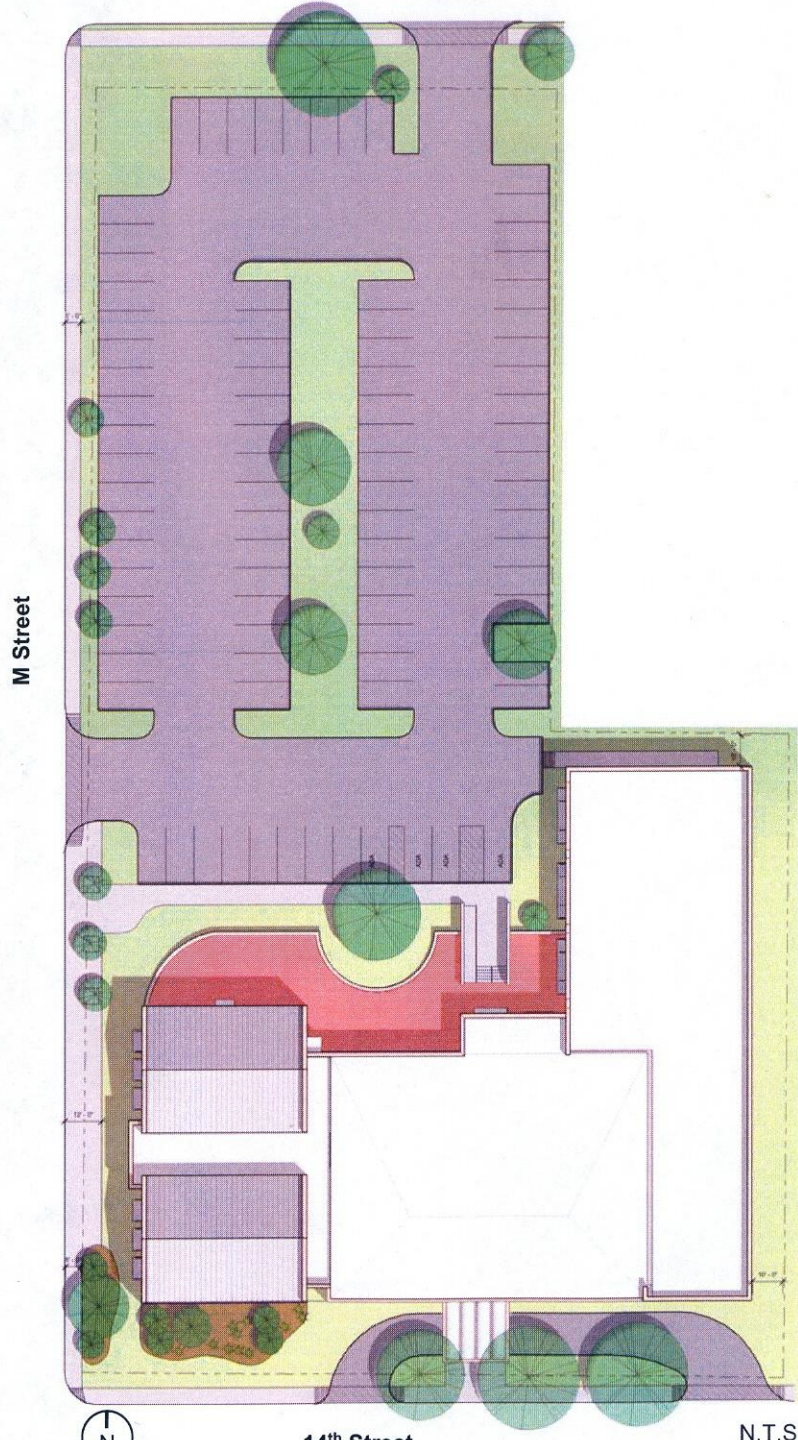
- ▶ 7000 square feet
 - ▶ 42 parking spaces
 - ▶ Accommodates 150
 - ▶ 25 computers for use by the public
 - ▶ A large genealogical collection
 - ▶ 65,000 books, tapes and other materials
 - ▶ Literacy, citizenship and pre-GED tutoring programs
 - ▶ Sponsored 139 programs for adults & children in FY08
- 

Current Site



LIBRARY SITE
HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS

1 inch = 80 feet



- Site Area: 1.774 Acres
- Parking Spaces:
 - 81 standard spaces
 - 4 ADA accessible spaces

ARCHITECTURE

ENGINEERING

CONSTRUCTION

PROGRAM
MANAGEMENT

**AGUIRRE
RODEN**

Established 1960



ARCHITECTURE

ENGINEERING

CONSTRUCTION

PROGRAM
MANAGEMENT

**AGUIRRE
RODEN**

Established 1960



Huntsville Public Library – Proposed Rendering

AGUIRRE RODEN

BUILDING SOLUTIONS SINCE 1960
700 LAVACA SUITE 500
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
T:512.478.3020 F:512.478.4457

Huntsville Library

1216 14th Street
Huntsville, Texas 77340



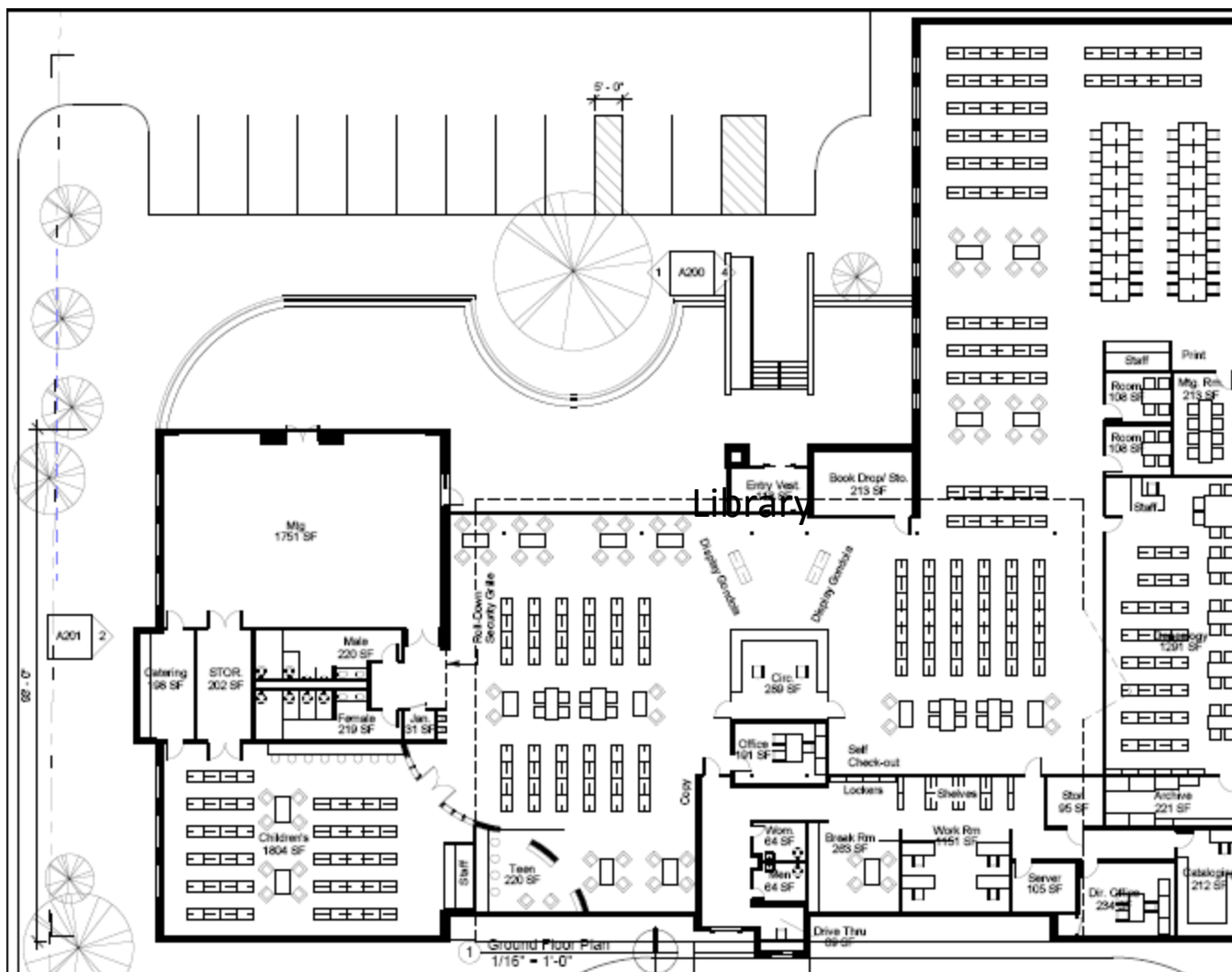
07/23/09

PROJECT NUMBER DATE ISSUED

DESCRIPTION

TITLE Floorplan Phase 2


A3



Library Space

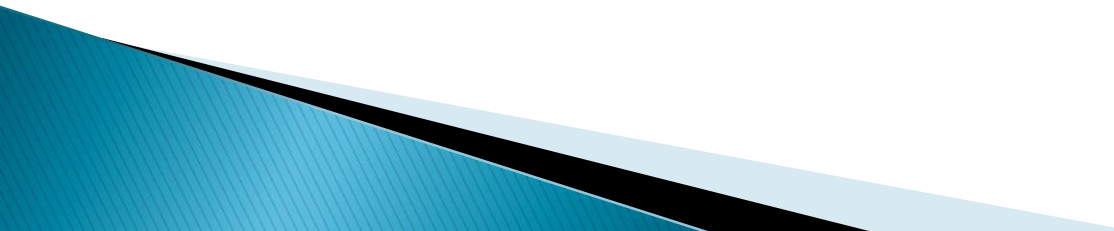
	Current (approx)	Future
Genealogy	750 sq ft + 96 sq ft in Archives	1291 sq ft + 221 sq ft in Archives
Children's	1312 sq ft	1804 sq ft
Meeting/Study Rooms	25 sq ft + 25 sq ft	1751 sq ft + 108 sq ft + 108 sq ft + 231 sq ft
Volunteer Workroom	0	1151 sq ft
Teen Room	0	221 sq ft

Expansion and Renovation of Our Library Will

- ▶ Expand space for books, tapes and other materials
 - ▶ Create special areas for children and teen activities
 - ▶ Build a community meeting room to accommodate groups of 150+ with catering facilities
 - ▶ Approximately double the genealogy area
 - ▶ Create study areas for literacy and tutoring program
 - ▶ Create parking for over 80 vehicles
 - ▶ Lower routine maintenance and utility costs through use of energy efficient building material
 - ▶ Enhance the outside with a patio for gatherings
- 

2. A proposition for the exchange of City parkland for property owned by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Shall the City Council be authorized to exchange 1.45 acres of the Eastham-Thomason Park Property located at the Northwest corner of Eastham-Thomason park fronting Smith Hill Road for two parcels of totaling 1.3 acres owned by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to correct a boundary overlay resulting from an incorrect metes and bound survey which resulted in portions of City of Huntsville parkland (1.45 acres) to be inside the fence line of the TDCJ and portions of TDCJ property (1.3 acres) to be inside the fence line of the City of Huntsville Parkland?



Ballot Language for Proposition 2

Authorizing the Huntsville City Council to exchange 1.45 acres of Eastham–Thomason Park property from the City of Huntsville, Texas for a 0.548–acre parcel and a 0.752–acre parcel both belonging to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to clarify a boundary overlay, with the 0.548 and 0.752–acre parcels becoming part of the City of Huntsville Eastham–Thomason Park property.

☐ FOR

☐ AGAINST

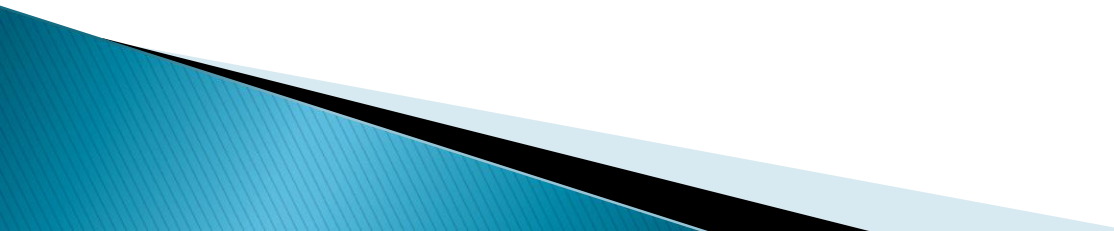


3. The adoption or rejection of ten (10) amendments to the existing Charter of the City of Huntsville

Proposed Charter Amendment 1

(Description of changes)

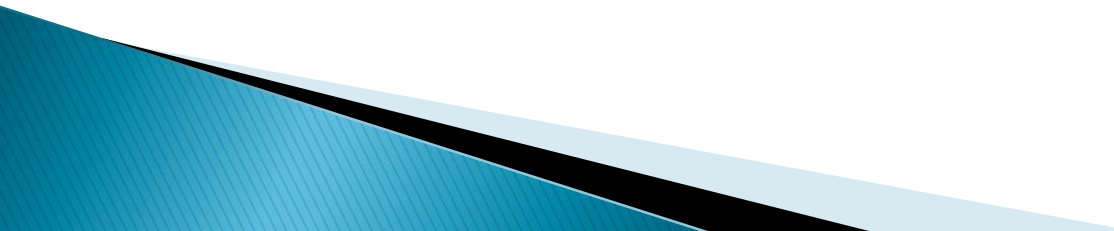
Amending Article VI, Section 6.01 to provide that the regular city general elections shall be moved from the uniform election date in May to the uniform election date in November to be effective January 1, 2010, and that all Councilmembers-at-large shall be elected on even numbered years beginning in November 2010 and Mayor and Councilmembers from all Wards shall be elected on odd numbered years beginning in November 2011, the effect being that current Councilmembers-at-large will have their current two year terms extended six months until November 2010 and the Current Mayor and Councilmembers from all Wards will have their current terms extended six months until November 2011, so that Section 6.01 shall read as follows:



Proposed Charter Amendment 1

(Revised Charter Language)

“Regular City general elections shall be held on the uniform election date in November to be effective and starting January 1, 2010. All Councilmembers and the Mayor shall be elected for two year terms, provided that the Mayor and Councilmembers from all Wards shall be elected on odd numbered years beginning in November 2011 and all Councilmembers-at-Large shall be elected on even numbered years beginning in November 2010. In all odd year elections, each qualified voter shall vote for not more than one candidate for Mayor and for not more than one candidate for Councilmember from the qualified voter's ward. In all even year elections, each qualified voter shall vote for not more than one candidate for each of the four Council-at-Large positions. Each election shall be ordered by the Mayor, or in the event the Mayor fails to do so by the Council. The City Secretary shall give notice of such election by causing the notice to be published at least forty days prior to the date of such election in the official newspaper of the City.”



Proposed Charter Amendment 1

(Actual Ballot Language)

Shall Article VI, Section 6.01 of the City Charter be amended to provide that the regular city general elections shall be moved from the uniform election date in May to the uniform election date in November to be effective January 1, 2010?

☐ FOR

☐ AGAINST

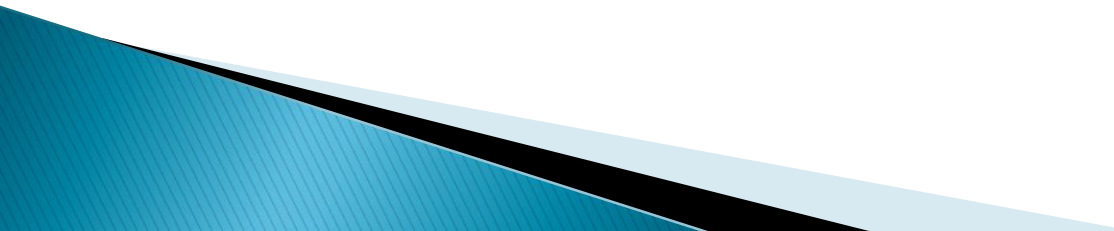


Proposed Charter Amendment 2

(Description of changes / Revised Charter Language)

Amending Article IV, Section 4.07 to provide that special meetings of the City Council are allowed to be held at locations other than City Hall, so that Section 4.07 shall read as follows:

“There shall be one or more regular meetings of the City Council each month, which shall be held at such times and places as shall be prescribed by ordinance or charter. Special meetings may be called at any time by the Mayor, the City Manager, or by a majority of the Councilmembers qualified and serving by giving notice to the City Secretary. All meetings of the Council, regular or special, shall be open to the public except as provided by Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code as amended. Regular meetings shall be held at the City Hall of the City. The term City Hall as used in this Charter shall mean the Council Chambers. The City Secretary shall give public notice of all meetings as required by law.”



Proposed Charter Amendment 2

(Actual Ballot Language)

Shall Article IV, Section 4.07 of the City Charter be amended to provide that special meetings of the City Council are allowed to be held at locations other than City Hall?

☐ **FOR**

☐ **AGAINST**

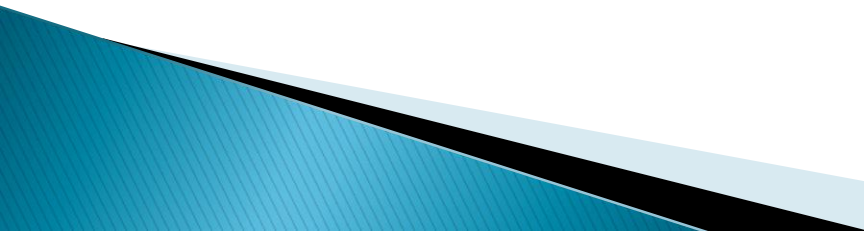


Proposed Charter Amendment 3

(Description of changes / Revised Charter Language)

AMENDMENT 3. Amending Article IV, Section 4.13 to provide that no ordinance shall be finally passed until it has been considered and favorably acted on by the Council at two (2) separate Council meetings and providing for exceptions to the requirement of two separate readings, so that Section 4.13 shall read as follows:

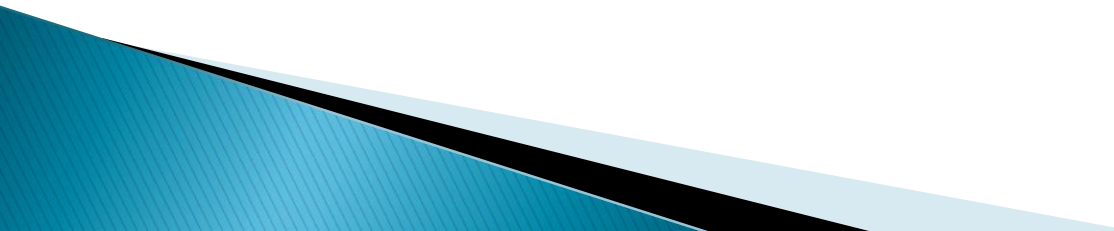
The Council may legislate and act only by ordinance, resolution or motion; and all ordinances, resolutions or motions, except ordinances making appropriations, shall be confined to one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in the title, and ordinances making appropriations shall be confined to the subject of appropriations. The enacting clause of every ordinance shall be, "BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS". Before any ordinance shall be adopted, the attorney for the City shall approve such ordinance in writing as to form or shall file with the City Secretary written legal objections thereto.



Proposed Charter Amendment 3

(Revised Charter Language, continued)

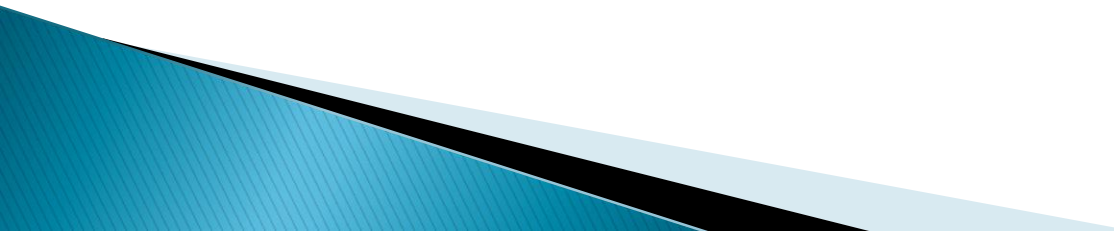
Every ordinance enacted by the Council shall be signed by the Mayor, however, should the Mayor refuse to sign or is unable to sign in his or her official capacity the Mayor Pro-Tem shall act in his or her stead. Should neither the Mayor nor Mayor Pro-Tem be able to perform, any two (2) Councilmembers shall sign the Ordinance. Every ordinance shall be filed with and recorded by the City Secretary before the same shall become effective. Every ordinance shall become effective upon adoption, or at any later time specified in the ordinance, except that every ordinance imposing any penalty, fine or forfeiture shall become effective after the procedures in Article IV, Section 4.14 of this Charter have been followed.



Proposed Charter Amendment 3

(Revised Charter Language, continued)

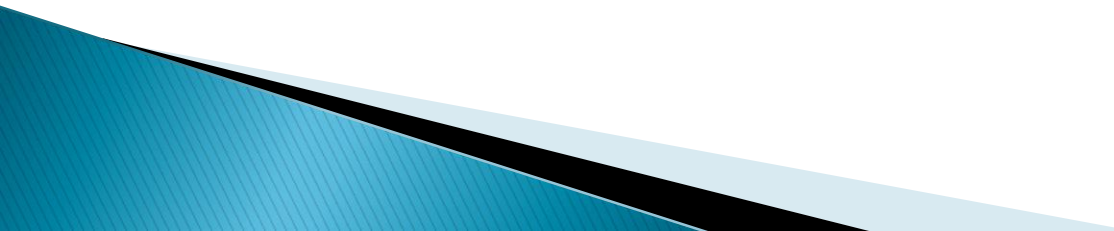
Except as otherwise provided in this charter, no ordinance shall be finally passed until it has been considered by the Council at two (2) separate Council meetings unless the requirements for reading it on two (2) separate days be dispensed with by the affirmative vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Council qualified and serving. The requirement of consideration on an ordinance at two (2) separate Council meetings shall not apply and only one (1) reading at one (1) Council meeting shall be required for the final passage of an ordinance relating to:

- (1) The adoption or amendment of a budget;
 - (2) The assessment, levy or collection of taxes;
 - (3) The calling of an election or the canvassing of the returns and declaration of the results of an election;
 - (4) An emergency.
- 

Proposed Charter Amendment 3

(Revised Charter Language, continued)

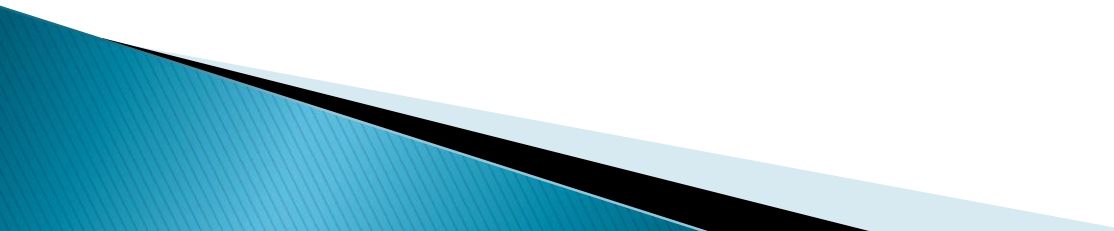
In the event an ordinance is adopted as an emergency measure, the same shall be expressed in the title and the body of such ordinance. The Council may adopt emergency ordinances only to meet public emergencies affecting life, health, property, or the public peace. In particular such ordinances shall not levy taxes, grant or renew or extend a franchise, or regulate the rate charged by any public utility for its services. Neither shall they authorize the borrowing of money, except as provided in Article XI. After adoption, an ordinance shall not be amended or repealed except by the adoption of another ordinance amending or repealing the original ordinance. Any member of Council may offer any ordinance in writing that he desires after it has been approved by the attorney for the City as to form and has been placed on the agenda of a regular Council meeting.



Proposed Charter Amendment 3

(Revised Charter Language, continued)

An emergency ordinance shall be introduced in the form and manner generally prescribed for ordinances, except that it shall be plainly designated in the title as an emergency ordinance and shall contain, after the enacting clause, a declaration stating that an emergency exists and describing it in clear and specific terms. An emergency ordinance can be adopted with or without amendment or rejected at the meeting at which it is introduced. The affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of Council present shall be required for adoption. After adoption, the ordinance shall be published as required for other adopted ordinances and shall become effective in the same manner. Every emergency ordinance so adopted, except one authorizing the borrowing of money as described herein, shall automatically stand repealed as of the sixty-first (61st) day following the day on which it became effective, but this shall not prevent reenactment as a regular ordinance.”



Proposed Charter Amendment 3

(Actual Ballot Language)

Shall Article IV, Section 4.13 of the City Charter be amended to provide that no ordinance shall be finally passed until it has been considered and favorably acted on by the Council at two (2) separate Council meetings and providing for exceptions to the requirement of two separate readings?

☐ **FOR**

☐ **AGAINST**

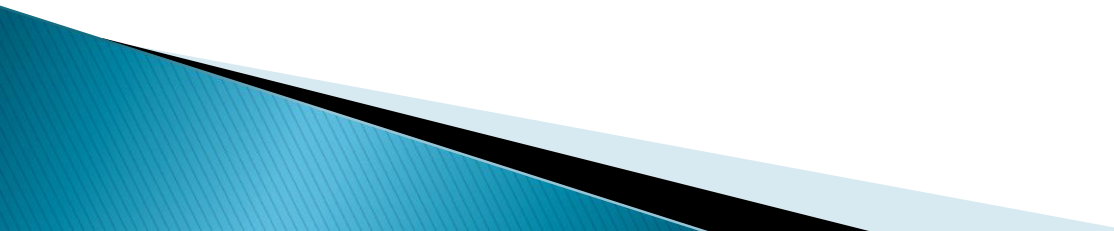


Proposed Charter Amendment 4

(Description of changes / Revised Charter Language)

Amending Article VII, Section 7.01 to change the required amount of signatures to submit petitions for initiative by the people of the City to direct legislation to not less than 1,000 of the qualified voters of the City so that Section 7.01 shall read as follows:

“The people of the City reserve the power of direct legislation by initiative, and in the exercise of such power may propose any ordinance, except ordinances appropriating money or levying taxes, or ordinances repealing ordinances appropriating money or levying taxes, not in conflict with this Charter or the Constitution of the laws of the State of Texas. Any initiated ordinance may be submitted to the Council by a petition signed by not less than 1000 (one thousand) of the qualified voters of the City.”



Proposed Charter Amendment 4

(Actual Ballot Language)

Shall Article VII, Section 7.01 of the City Charter be amended to change the required amount of signatures to submit petitions for initiative by the people of the City to direct legislation to not less than 1,000 of the qualified voters of the City?

☐ FOR

☐ AGAINST

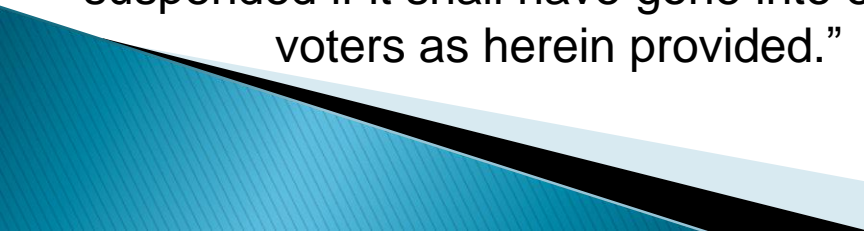


Proposed Charter Amendment 5

(Description of changes / Revised Charter Language)

Amending Article VII, Section 7.02 to change the required amount of signatures to submit petitions for referendum by the people of the City to approve or reject at the polls legislation enacted by the Council to not less than 1,000 of the qualified voters of the City so that Section 7.02 shall read as follows:

“The people reserve the power to approve or reject at the polls any legislation enacted by the Council which is subject of the initiative process under this Charter, except ordinances authorizing the issuance of either tax or revenue bonds, whether original or refunding bonds, shall not be subject to such referendum. Prior to or within thirty days after the effective date of any ordinance which is subject to referendum, a petition signed by not less than 1000 (one thousand) of the qualified voters of the City may be filed with the City Secretary requesting that any such ordinance be either repealed or submitted to a vote of the people. When such a petition has been certified as sufficient by the City Secretary, the ordinance specified in the petition shall not go into effect, or further action thereon shall be suspended if it shall have gone into effect, until and unless it is approved by the voters as herein provided.”



Proposed Charter Amendment 5

(Actual Ballot Language)

Shall Article VII, Section 7.02 of the City Charter be amended to change the required amount of signatures to submit petitions for referendum by the people of the City to approve or reject at the polls legislation enacted by the Council to not less than 1,000 of the qualified voters of the City?

☐ FOR

☐ AGAINST

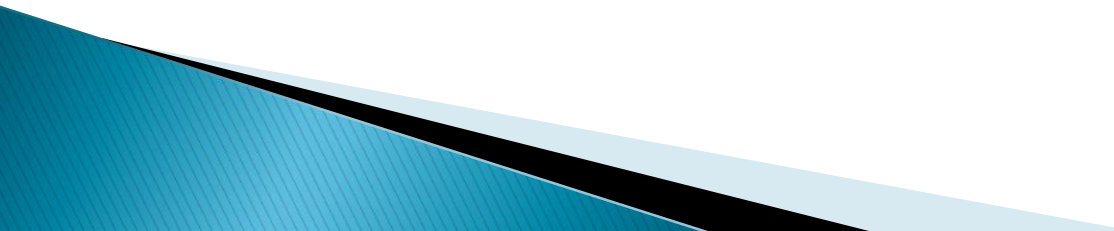


Proposed Charter Amendment 6

(Description of changes / Revised Charter Language)

Amending Article VII, Section 7.07 to change the required amount of signatures to submit petitions for recall any elected officer of the City of Huntsville to not less than 1,000 of the qualified voters of the City so that Section 7.07 shall read as follows:

“The people of the City reserve the power to recall any elected officer of the City of Huntsville and may exercise such power by filing with the City Secretary a petition, signed by not less than 1000 (one thousand) of the qualified voters of the City demanding the removal of such elected officers. The petition shall be signed and verified in the manner required for an initiative petition.”



Proposed Charter Amendment 6

(Actual Ballot Language)

Shall Article VII, Section 7.07 of the City Charter be amended to change the required amount of signatures to submit petitions for recall any elected officer of the City of Huntsville to not less than 1,000 of the qualified voters of the City?

☐ FOR

☐ AGAINST



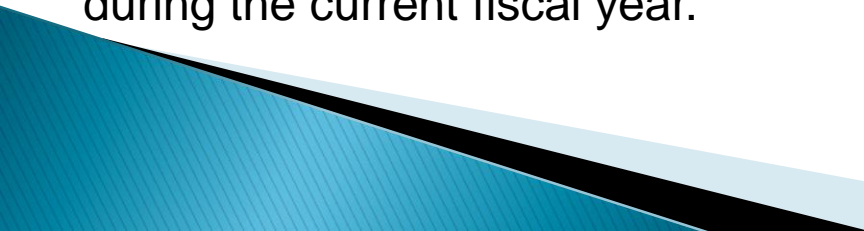
Proposed Charter Amendment 7

(Description of changes / Revised Charter Language)

Amending the first paragraph of Article XI, Section 11.07 by deleting the language “and shall be made only upon the recommendation of the City Manager” so that Section 11.07 shall read as follows:

“At any time in any fiscal year, the Council may, pursuant to this Section, make emergency appropriations to meet a pressing need for public expenditures, for other than regular or recurring requirements, to protect the public health, safety, or welfare. Such appropriations shall be by ordinance adopted by the favorable votes of two-thirds of the Councilmembers qualified and serving.

Should the unappropriated and unencumbered revenues, income and available funds of the City for such fiscal year be not sufficient to meet the expenditures under the appropriation authorized by this Section, thereby creating a deficit, it shall be the duty of the Council to include the amount of such deficit in its budget for the following fiscal year, and said deficit shall be paid off and discharged during the current fiscal year.”



Proposed Charter Amendment 7

(Actual Ballot Language)

Shall the first paragraph of Article XI,
Section 11.07 of the City Charter be
amended by deleting the language “and
shall be made only upon the
recommendation of the City Manager”?

☐ FOR

☐ AGAINST

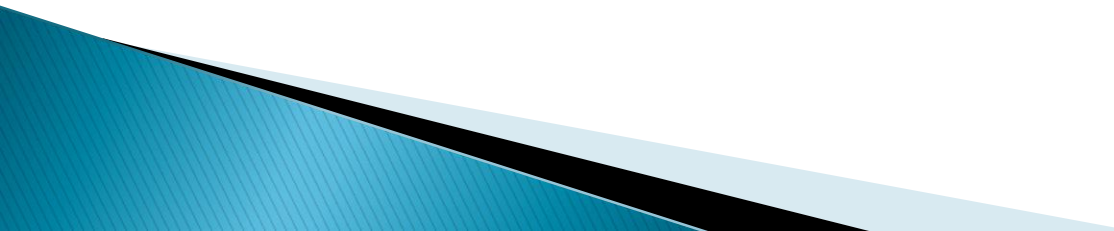


Proposed Charter Amendment 8

(Description of changes / Revised Charter Language)

Amending Article XI, Section 11.13 to allow for the sale of bonds without the requirement for publication or public sale, and to be sold in accordance with state law as amended so that Section 11.13 shall read as follows:

“No bonds, other than refunding bonds issued to refund and in exchange of previously issued outstanding bonds, issued by the City shall be sold for less than par value and accrued interest. If any bonds should be bid at the direction of Council, the Council shall have the right to reject any and all bids.”



Proposed Charter Amendment 8

(Actual Ballot Language)

Shall Article XI, Section 11.13 of the City Charter be amended to allow for the sale of bonds without the requirement for publication or public sale, and to be sold in accordance with state law as amended?

☐ FOR

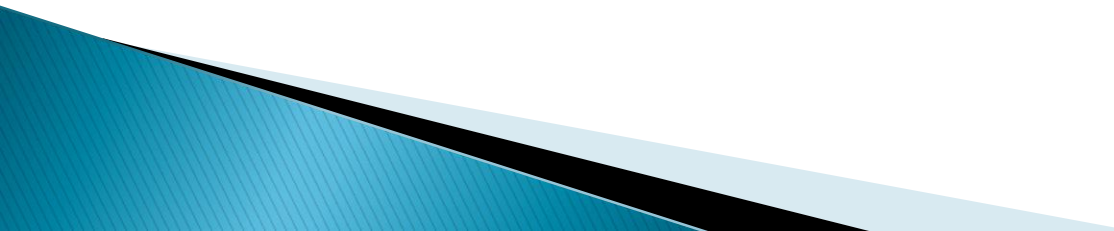
☐ AGAINST



Proposed Charter Amendment 9

(Description of changes)

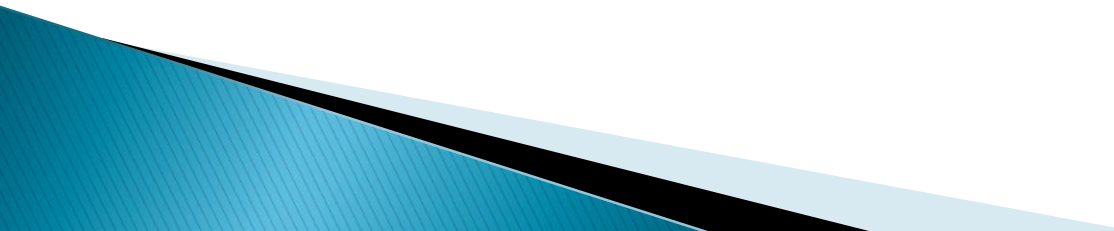
Amending Article XI, by adding a new Section 11.17 that provides for a limitation of the Issuance of new debt that exceeds .002 (two-tenths of one percent) of the net taxable value as certified by the Walker County Appraisal District applicable to the City tax roll for the fiscal year in which the funds are approved (for reference purposes if 2009 net taxable value was used the dollar amount would be is approximately 2.2 million dollars) and that Section 11.17 shall be titled and shall read as follows:



Proposed Charter Amendment 9

(Revised Charter Language)

“Section 11.17. Limitation on Issuance of New Debt by City Council. Any new issuance of new debt that exceeds the total of .002 (two-tenths of one percent) of the net taxable value as certified by the Walker County Appraisal District applicable to the City tax roll for the fiscal year in which the funds are approved shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the City of Huntsville, Texas provided that the issuance of new debt is not required for an emergency or disaster that includes the City of Huntsville as declared by the Governor of the State of Texas or the President of the United States or an emergency or disaster is declared by the majority vote of City Council only because of an imminent threat to public health and safety. A favorable majority of all votes cast at the City election is required for approval.”



Proposed Charter Amendment 9

(Actual Ballot Language)

Shall Article XI of the City Charter be amended by adding a new section 11.17 to provide for the Limiting of the issuance of new debt by providing that any proposed issuance of new debt that exceeds .002 (two-tenths of one percent) of the net taxable value as certified by the Walker County Appraisal District applicable to the City tax roll for the fiscal year in which the funds are approved shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the City of Huntsville, Texas with exceptions?

☐ FOR

☐ AGAINST



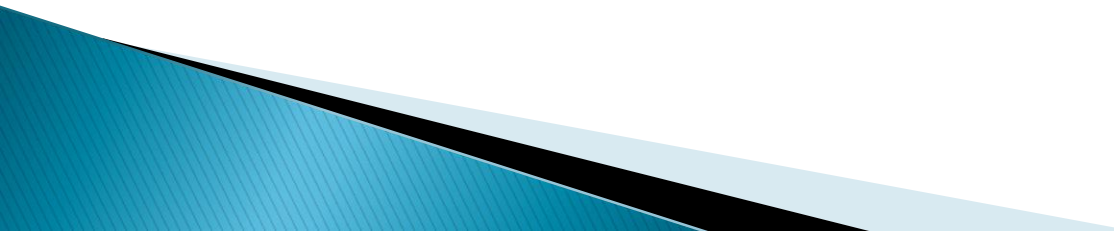
Proposed Charter Amendment 10

(Description of changes / Revised Charter Language)

Amending Article XII, by adding a new Section 12.03 and that Section 12.03 shall be titled and shall read as follows:

“Section 12.03 Tax abatement or rebate

A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Council qualified and serving is required to authorize any abatement of any city taxes or any rebate of any city taxes to any individual or entity.”



Proposed Charter Amendment 10

(Actual Ballot Language)

Shall Article XII of the City Charter be amended by adding a new section 12.03 that provides that any tax abatement or tax rebate shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Council qualified and serving?

☐ **FOR**

☐ **AGAINST**

